

Richard C. Lantow et al.
USSN 10/653,675
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Remarks

Please cancel claims 13-15 without prejudice, amend claims 1, 3, 11 and 12 as provided herein. Claims 1-12 are currently pending in the present application. For the convenience of the patent examiner, Applicants will address the issues raised by the patent examiner in the order presented in the Office Action dated January 14, 2005.

1. Applicants were advised that should claims 2-4 be found allowable, claims 13-15 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. In response, claims 13-15 have been cancelled without prejudice and no response is necessary with respect to this objection of these particular claims.

2.-4. *Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112.* Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 13-15 have been cancelled without prejudice and no response is necessary with respect to this rejection of these particular claims.

Specifically, claims 1, 12 and 13 were rejected as allegedly twice claiming certain elements. In response, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to address the purported twice claiming issue. As noted above, claim 13 was cancelled without prejudice and no response is necessary with respect to this rejection of this particular claim. Also, claims 3 and 14 were rejected as allegedly containing elements that did not contain antecedent basis. In response, claims 1, 3, 11 and 12 have been amended to address any purported lack of antecedent basis issues that may exist. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph is requested.

5. No response is necessary.

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Conclusion. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants note that the European Patent Office acting as the International Search Authority ("ISA") has found that International Application No. PCT/US2004/028494 possesses novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability. International Application No. PCT/US2004/028494 claims priority from the present invention. Attached hereto as Appendix A is a copy of the Written Opinion that was received from the ISA. Applicants wish to bring this Written Opinion to the attention of the patent examiner before the U.S. Pat. Office issues an Office Action on the merits.

If the patent examiner would like to suggest changes of a formal nature to place this application in better condition for allowance, a telephone call to Applicants' undersigned attorney would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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